

The objective of these maritime interception operations is to ensure that merchant vessels proceeding to Haiti are in compliance with United Nations Security Council sanctions. The enforcement operations have been conducted in a thorough and safe manner. As of April 18, 1994, more than 6,000 vessels had been queried, 712 boarded, and 44 diverted to other than Haitian ports due to suspected violations or cargo that was inaccessible to inspection. These operations have been generally effective in preventing the sale or supply of embargoed items through sea trade and have specifically deterred tanker shipments of petroleum products, as one important aspect of the Haitian embargo enforcement effort. There have been no U.S. personnel casualties during the conduct of these operations.

The valuable U.S. contribution to U.N. embargo enforcement operations is important to U.S. goals and interests in the region and, fun-

damentally, to the restoration of democracy in Haiti. I am not able to indicate at this time how long the deployment of U.S. Naval Forces in this multilateral operation will be necessary. I have continued the deployment of U.S. Armed Forces for these purposes pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct foreign relations and as Commander in Chief.

I appreciate the support the Congress has provided for this important U.S. contribution to multilateral efforts to restore democracy to Haiti, and I look forward to continued cooperation with you in these matters.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Robert C. Byrd, President pro tempore of the Senate. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

Nomination for the Rehabilitation Services Administration

April 20, 1994

The President today announced his intention to nominate Fredric K. Schroeder as Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration at the Department of Education.

"As one who gradually became blind as a teenager, Dr. Schroeder knows all too well the challenges facing people with disabilities," the

President said. "He has devoted his life to empowering disabled people, and I'm confident he will continue in his new assignment to help disabled Americans achieve their goals."

NOTE: A biography of the nominee was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

Remarks at the Democratic Congressional Dinner

April 20, 1994

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for that enthusiastic introduction and for your equally enthusiastic leadership of the House. Senator Mitchell, Congressman Gephardt, Senator Graham and Congressman Fazio, Senator Rockefeller, Congressman Torricelli, to the host committee, and especially to our chair, Hugh Westbrook, all of you who have made so many sacrifices for the Democratic Party and for our country.

The Vice President and I are glad to be here tonight to see so many old friends; to know that what we have done together has made you willing to continue to work to keep our majority so that we can continue to work for you. And I have to tell you that I'm very proud—very, very proud—of all the Democratic Members of Congress who have worked with us and without whom we could not have done anything over the last 15 months to deal with the profound problems this country faces.